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UNCLAS HARARE 000739

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/S  
USTR PASS PCOLEMAN, WJACKSON

E. O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ZI

SUBJECT: Zimbabwe's Lack of Progress Toward AGOA  
Qualifications

Ref: State 53658

Zimbabwe remains unqualified for AGOA. We address the 6  
broad areas from reftel below:

1) AGOA Trade and Investment: N/A Zimbabwe's  
sophisticated textile sector is clearly losing business  
to AGOA-qualified countries.

2) Market Economy/Economic Reform/Elimination of Trade  
Barriers: Zimbabwe's economic decline accelerated in  
2002. Gross Domestic Product lost about 12 percent. The  
Government's land redistribution demolished Zimbabwe's  
agricultural sector, which traditionally accounted for  
half of exports. The country's infrastructure is  
collapsing, with basic commodities increasing  
unavailable. Foreign direct investment is nearly zero.

3) Rule of Law/Political Pluralism/Anti-Corruption: In  
the aftermath of the deeply flawed March 2002  
presidential election, which most serious observer groups  
dismissed as unfree and unfair, Government intensified  
its repression of the opposition, the judiciary, and the  
independent press. President Mugabe regularly disparaged  
the principal opposition party -- which, by the  
Government's count, won 1.2 million of the 2.8 million  
votes cast in the presidential election -- as a puppet of  
the United Kingdom which should be crushed. Corruption  
at all levels of government appears to be increasing --  
exacerbated by the economy's implosion. A government-  
sanctioned audit of the chaotic land redistribution  
program -- the centerpiece of the ruling party's political  
agenda -- revealed widespread abuse of the announced  
resettlement rules by ruling party cronies, who benefited  
handsomely from a policy bearing large responsibility for  
Zimbabwe's rapid economic contraction.

4) Poverty Reduction: Poverty expanded rapidly.  
Zimbabweans have had increasingly difficulty affording  
food, health-care and transport. In 2002, the U.S.  
contributed over US\$ 120 million in food aid.

5) Human Rights/Labor/Child Labor: Zimbabwe's human  
rights record continued to worsen, as an increasingly  
unpopular government escalated its repression of  
suspected opposition supporters. In 2002, there were  
1397 reported cases of torture, unlawful arrest, murder,  
rape, and other politically-motivated crimes. More than  
90 percent of these attacks were perpetrated by ruling  
party supporters and security services, according to  
reputable human rights organizations. The Government  
frequently singled out labor leaders for intimidation.

6) AGOA Outreach: N/A

Sullivan